

Ashfield Allotment Association

Treasurer **Joe Roper**

President **Eric Shaw**

Chairman **Daniel Barrington**

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Meeting held on Sunday 8th March 2015, meeting opened at 11.10am

Present – Daniel Barrington, Colin Langeveld Joe Roper, John Byrne, Terry Wilson, Eddie Wilson, Marilyn Gray & Neill Davies

1) Apologies –Ken Hines and John Morris

2) Minutes of the last committee meeting – The minutes were agreed as a true record

3) Matters arising from the minutes –

Last month Daniel had received correspondence from [REDACTED] asking to move to Alecs plot. Joe spoke to [REDACTED] when he collected rent and [REDACTED] told him that it was another plot holder who was putting pressure on him to move.

John Byrne asked why Alecs plot hadn't been given out yet. Colin explained that it only became vacant in mid-February and lots of other plots had become vacant just before that. The plot will be allocated very soon.

4) Correspondence–

Letter received from Richie Ballard Plot 38 asking if his bees can be moved to the wildlife area and he would then give up half of his plot. The committee agreed to this on the condition that the City Council had no objection to bees going on the wildlife area.

Letter received from Clifford Holyrode School asking for an area to grow vegetables. We have no vacant plots at this moment in time and a long waiting list, Daniel will reply and suggest that they contact Mysercough College or Dovecot MAC about opportunities there.

5) Membership Report – 9 people have been deleted from the waiting list, some had decided they no longer want plots or had taken plots elsewhere. 5 people from the waiting lists to plots 32A 58B, 6, 20A & 31A. Total on the waiting list – 43.

Richie Plot 38 said his plot is flooded and thinks there may be a broken drain underneath it. Daniel said that he has seen plans of all the drains on the site and there isn't one by or near his plot. Due to the weather over the past year all plots have experienced flooding problems.

Plot 61B has recently become vacant but is heavily shaded because of the trees from Thingwall House. It was agreed that the plot shouldn't be let again.

6) Treasurers Report – The majority of the rents have been paid, there are a couple left were plots have recently become vacant. The rent will be paid over to the council next week and we will receive a 10% rebate. Eddie asked why the water bill (at £105.70) was so high as it was over the winter months. Joe checked the bill and it had been estimated, Joe will make sure that a reading is taken next time.

7) Funding and Compost Toilet– Daniel and Ken went to Mersey Road allotments to have a look at their compost toilet. Daniel brought along some photos to show the committee, he said that in his opinion the toilet we had was a lot better.

He suggested that we don't get a compost toilet but instead get the existing toilet emptied more frequently during the summer months and try to clean it more regularly. This was agreed.

8) Update on works for standpipes and taps – This issue has been dragging on for some time now with little progress. Joe had enquired about the materials for the standpipes but was advised of other options using

wooden fencing posts. It was agreed to stick with galvanised steel, Joe would get a quote this work and order them.

Joe had also gotten a quote for the brackets which are needed for the razor wire for the wall by the front of the site. It was agreed to purchase these.

9) Any Other Business –

██████ – the new plotholder started to build a chicken coop even though he was told he couldn't keep hens straight away until his plot was cultivated. It's previously been agreed that nobody would be granted permission until they'd been a plot holder for six months and fully cultivated their plot. Colin has emailed the plotholder, Joe and John B have also been over to speak to him. The structure is 8 feet high, he has at the moment stopped building it. We need to monitor this.

Plot 72A – This plotholder has dug a big hole in the middle of the plot. He is now complaining that it's flooding and has asked to move to another plot. Daniel said that he and Joe spoke to the plot holder last year and explained that the plots around him are not experiencing the same problems and the last person on that plot successfully cultivated it. Daniel has also discussed this on the phone and put it in writing to him, telling him that he cannot move plots.

Complaint from the flats – Marilyn said that a neighbour in the flats has complained about someone coming on to the site around 5.30am walking around the site with a torch. The noise of the gate has woken some people up in the flats. This person has a key and occasionally brings a car and trailer on to the site. We have had a similar situation in the past.

Open Day – We will hold the open day on Sunday 9th May.

10) Date and time of the next meeting – Sunday 12th April at 11.00am

Meeting closed at 12.10pm